

**THE HOLY SPIRIT:
THE MISUNDERSTOOD
MEMBER OF THE
TRINITY**

**By: Daniel L. Akin, President
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, NC**

The Holy Spirit of God John 14-16

- I. **The Holy Spirit is a Person** (14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-14)
 - 1) This is affirmed by the masculine pronoun (14:26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-14)
 - 2) This is affirmed by a parallel ministry (14:16-18)
- II. **The Holy Spirit comes by Procession** (14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
 - 1) He is a gift from the Father (14:16, 26; 15:26)
 - 2) He is a gift from the Son (14:16; 15:26; 16:7)
- III. **The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete** (14:16, 26-27; 15:26-27; 16:7)
 - 1) He is an answer to prayer (14:16)
 - 2) He is a blessing of peace (14:26-27)
 - 3) He has a ministry of proclamation (15:26-27)
 - 4) He is a fulfillment of promise (16:7)
- IV. **The Holy Spirit is a Pedagogue** (14:26; 16:12-15)
 - 1) He guides the saints in truth (14:26; 16:12-15)
 - 2) He glorifies the Son in truth (16:14-15)
- V. **The Holy Spirit is Powerful** (16:7-11)
 - 1) He convicts of sin (16:8-9)
 - 2) He commends the Son (16:8, 10)
 - 3) He condemns Satan (16:8, 11)
- VI. **The Holy Spirit is a Presence** (14:15-18)
 - 1) He is God with us forever (14:15-16)
 - 2) He is God for us forever (14:17)
 - 3) He is God in us forever (14:17)
 - 4) He is God to us forever (14:18)

The Coming Of THE HOLY SPIRIT: A Summation
John 14-16

The purposes of Jesus' leaving and the Holy Spirit's Coming

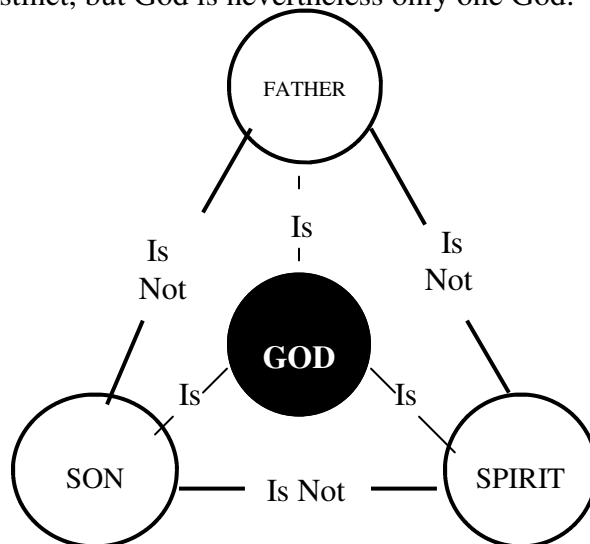
- A. The Holy Spirit came to Universalize the local ministry of Christ. The Spirit is at all places at all times.
- B. Jesus was sent by the Father (John 3:16) – The Spirit was sent by the Father and Jesus (John 14:16, 26).
- C. As Jesus is the Truth – (John 14:6) so the Spirit of the Truth (John 15:26) will guide us into all truth (John 16:13).
- D. Jesus glorified the Father not Himself (John 17:4), so the Spirit glorifies Jesus (John 16:14).
- E. Jesus still had much to teach the Disciples; the Spirit continues this teaching function (John 16:13).
- F. As the world did not accept Jesus (John 1:10, 11) neither will it accept the Spirit (John 16:8).

Summary –Jesus was God's final word to humanity (Hebrew 1:1-2). The Spirit's role is not to give some new revelation of His own, but to bear witness to Jesus and to interpret and bring out all the implication of God's final Word.

The Holy Spirit and the Triune God
(A Summary)

Who is He? – The Third Person of the Godhead-the distinctions (1,2,3) are not of power, but of progress of revelation.

The figure below is commonly used to visualize the truth about the triune Godhead in a concise way. Each Person is seen to be God; each Person is also distinct, but God is nevertheless only one God.



Emblems of the Spirit

- 1) Fire – Representing the holy presence of God. Emphasis is upon His power and just judgment, even His purifying activity in the life of a believer (Is. 4:4; Acts 2:3).
- 2) Wind – He is mysterious and invisible yet powerful, especially in the work of regeneration (John 3:8; Titus 3:5-8).
- 3) Water – This emphasizes His refreshment, fullness, satisfaction and cleansing activity. He is life-giving and thirst-quenching (John 7:37-39). The idea of eternal life is also communicated here (Ez. 36:25-27; Zech. 14:16-21).
- 4) Dove – Present in all four gospels, the image is one of cleanliness, purity and peace. Gentleness and calm are also ideas conveyed (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32; cf. Matthew 10:16).
- 5) Seal – The Spirit is represented under the emblem of a seal in three passages: “In who having also believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit.” “Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are sealed.” “God hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” This sealing is not some emotion or experience granted at some moment of high Christian experience. (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22). The seal is nothing less than the presence of God’s Spirit in the believer.

Primary in this metaphor are the ideas of possession and protection; God’s rightful ownership of us.

- 6) Earnest or Pledge – This signifies partial payment of a total obligation (Eph. 1:13-14). God’s initial gift of the Holy Spirit is a solemn guarantee and is like the first installment of our inheritance, the assurance that our redemption will be fully accomplished. It is therefore a beautiful symbol of the believer’s security.
- 7) Oil – The emblem appears in all the offerings of the priesthood and tabernacle. It occurs in the very name of Christ, but is not in every case a prefiguration of the work of the Spirit. The immediate references to the Spirit under the emblem of oil may be gathered from the five passages in which He is spoken of as the anointing. Three of these (Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38) refer to the anointing of Jesus, and the other two (1 John 2:20, 27; 2 Cor. 1:21) refer to the Holy Spirit as a “chrisma”, an anointing for the believer. The Holy Spirit illumines Christ to us, extending gladness and joy into our hearts.
- 8) Clothing – (Luke 24:49), The idea speaks of our passivity and God’s activity. The Spirit’s coming upon us is to empower us for life and witness.

* Three of these (Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38) refer to the anointing.

Names or Titles of the Spirit

TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT		
Title	Emphasis	Citation
One Spirit	His Unity	Ephesians 4:4
Seven Spirits	His perfection, omnipresence, and completeness	Revelation 1:4; 3:1
The Lord the Spirit	His sovereignty	2 Corinthians 3:18
Eternal Spirit	His eternity	Hebrews 9:14
Spirit of Glory	His glory	1 Peter 4:14
Spirit of Life	His vitality	Romans 8:2
Spirit of Holiness Holy Spirit Holy One	His holiness	Romans 1:4 Matthew 1:20 1 John 2:20
Spirit of Wisdom Spirit of Understanding Spirit of Counsel Spirit of Knowledge	His omniscience, wisdom and counsel	Exodus 28:3 Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of Might	His omnipotence	Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of Fear of the Lord	His reverence	Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of Truth	His truthfulness	John 14:17
Free Spirit	His sovereign freedom	Psalms 51:12
Spirit of Grace	His grace	Hebrews 10:29
Spirit of Grace and Supplication	His grace and prayerfulness	Zechariah 12:10

Contrasting the Baptism and Fillings of the Holy Spirit	
Baptism (Romans 6; 1 Corinthians 12:13)	Filling (Ephesians 5:18)
One-time experience.	Continuously experienced.
Happened in the past at salvation.	Happens in the present for sanctification.
Brings union and relationship with Christ.	Brings communion and fellowship with Christ.
Introduces us into the body of Christ.	Empowers individual members of the body of Christ.
Is never commanded of us.	Is commanded as a repeated action.
A positional state brought about by God at salvation.	An experimental state brought about by our submission and obedience to God's will.
<i>All</i> Christians have had this experience.	All Christians should have this experience, but <i>some</i> do not.

New Testament Lists of Spiritual Gifts				
Romans 12:6-8	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28-30	Eph. 4:11	1 Peter 4:9-11
Prophecy	Word of Wisdom	Apostleship	Apostleship	Speaking
Serving	Word of Knowledge	Prophecy	Prophecy	Serving
Teaching	Faith	Teaching	Evangelism	
Exhortation	Healings	Miracles	Pastor/Teacher	
Giving	Miracles	Healing		
Leading	Prophecy	Helping		
Showing Mercy	Discerning of Spirits	Administrating		
	Tongues	Tongues		
	Interpretation of Tongues	Interpretation of Tongues		

“BEING SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT:” SOME BASIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By: Danny Akin
President
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

1. *Does the Bible teach or ever refer to “being slain in the Spirit?”*

No, neither the phrase nor the idea is ever mentioned.

2. *Do advocates of this experience try to justify it biblically?*

Some do and some do not. Some cite John 18:6 where those who come to arrest Jesus “. . . drew back and fell to the ground.” However, the Spirit is never mentioned in the passage and these were unbelievers, so it would not apply to Christians. Further, these soldiers were able to immediately get back up and talk with Jesus, which is something that those who say they experience being “slain in the Spirit” are unable to do.

3. *Are those who claim to be “slain in the Spirit” sincere?*

Yes, but sincerity is no guarantee of truth. It is possible, as often is the case, that people are sincerely wrong.

4. *If being “slain in the Spirit” is not biblical, then what is the source of the experience?*

In most cases, it is probably psychological. However, it is possible that in some instances it is demonic. It is important to note the occult, cults and other world religions have this same experience (as well as tongues, alleged healings, etc).

5. *Is being “slain in the Spirit” a dangerous teaching just because it has no biblical support? Does it really hurt anyone?*

Yes, it is dangerous for several reasons.

- A) **God wants us to love Him with all that we are. This includes our mind and intelligence. God never asks us to empty our minds and we are never asked or commanded to seek being “slain in the Spirit.”**
- B) **This experience causes persons to give more attention to the Holy Spirit than to Jesus, something the Spirit does not want (John 16:14).**
- C) **It often promotes spiritual pride on the part of those who advocate this practice, and God always opposes pride (James 4:6-10).**
- D) **It often neglects the importance of preaching and teaching the Word of God, which is the means whereby we grow in God’s grace.**

E) It misleads persons concerning what real spirituality is, which is being a witness for Jesus (Acts 1:8) and bearing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

“THE TRUTH ABOUT TONGUES”

I Corinthians 14:1-40

- I. **Tongues are inferior for edification** 14:1-19
 - 1) They are unintelligible without an interpretation 14:1-5
 - 2) They are useless without an interpretation 14:6-12
 - 3) They are unfruitful without an interpretation 14:13-17
 - 4) They are undesirable without an interpretation 14:18-19

- II. **Tongues may invite confusion** 14:20-25
 - 1) Tongues are a sign for unbelieving Jews 14:20-22
 - 2) Tongues are senseless for unbelieving pagans 14:23-25

- III. **Tongues are insulated with regulations** 14:26-40
 - 1) There must be edification 14:26
 - 2) There must be interpretation 14:27-28
 - 3) There must be evaluation 14:29-33
 - 4) There must be regulation 14:34-40
 - a) Women speaking is unscriptural 14:34-35
 - b) Wisdom is essential 14:36-38
 - c) Decorum is beneficial 14:39-40